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1. \$232 million Business Education Tax cut for Toronto ratepayers

The 2007 provincial business education tax rates are 1.976% for commercial properties and 2.060% for industrial properties.

The 2007 Ontario budget outlines a seven-year plan to reduce commercial and industrial business education taxes in Ontario to a maximum of 1.6 per cent. By 2014 the total tax reduction to commercial and industrial ratepayers in the City of Toronto will be \$232 million.

While most of the tax reductions for existing buildings in the City of Toronto will only come into effect after 2012, any newly constructed commercial and industrial buildings will be taxed at the 1.6% rate immediately.

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2. Toronto's financial services sector faces looming skills shortage

Toronto's financial services industry needs to start planning today to avoid a talent crisis in the next 5-10 years.

Talent Matters - A Study of the Toronto Financial Service Industry Talent Market is a

year-long analysis of the city's financial services talent market undertaken by the Toronto Financial Services Alliance (TFSA).

The report, authored by Deloitte, notes that the existing strong base of successful businesses, a skilled and diverse workforce, and excellent training and post-secondary institutions may not be enough to combat the existing shortage of technically skilled workers which is exacerbated by increasing global competition for Toronto workers as well as an aging workforce.

The study recommends that Toronto's banks, insurance companies, investment firms and other companies increase industry-wide collaboration on:

- eliminating barriers to hiring and integrating new immigrants;
- strengthening financial services education and aligning it to industry needs; and
- improving the Toronto financial services 'brand' both as a business location and career choice.

[Click here for a full copy of the report.](#)

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3. Report from MIPIM - Toronto development opportunities showcased to 22,000 executives

Toronto's investment opportunities were showcased to global property developers and real estate advisors at the recent MIPIM trade fair in Cannes, France.

Team Toronto, a delegation of private and public sector representatives attended the trade show to promote revitalization of Toronto's waterfront and other key development sites. The four-day event attracted 22,000 senior executives, more than 500 journalists and 74 exhibiting countries.

Key messaging *Toronto Today, Tomorrow, Together* was created and reiterated in print and electronic advertisements; displays, presentations and collateral materials. One-on-one meetings were used to entice targeted development and investment interests. A number of leads were developed and follow-up is planned.

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4. Conference solidifies Toronto's position as global leader for mining finance

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) annual convention, trade show and investors' exchange held in Toronto last month attracted over 17,600 participants from around the world, and contributed close to \$28 million to the city's economy.

Convention delegates comprised corporate executives and exploration managers; geoscientists; representatives of more than 40 international delegations; and industry experts.

The national mining industry is supported in Toronto through the presence of major accounting firms, a large contingent of engineering and geological consulting firms, brokerage and investment houses, as well as law firms with specialties in exploration and mining. An estimated 600 mining equipment and services companies, more than 12 mining industry associations and organizations, as well as a large number of exploration and mining companies operate in Toronto.

Mining companies make up approximately 28% of the listings on the TSX and the TSX-Venture exchanges, and more than 50% of the world's equity financing for exploration

and mining is raised through their auspices. Fifty-eight per cent of the world's mining companies are listed on the Toronto exchanges.

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5. Toronto joins international network to advance knowledge-based businesses

Toronto has joined the collaborative "Digital City Network" to advance the city's knowledge-based businesses. Cities such as Paris, Dublin and Singapore are already involved in the network.

Mayor David Miller signed a memorandum of understanding with San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom through video conference at Autodesk, one of Toronto's best known design software companies.

Membership in the network will build and enhance the global reputation of Toronto as a leading creative centre, stimulate local business and investment, grow digital media, as well as foster idea and innovation exchanges and stimulate creation of joint educational programs.

For information contact Rob Berry

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6. Study to gauge impact of design on advanced manufacturing

Ontario's Design Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC), together with the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance (GTMA), is studying the impact of design on advanced manufacturing firms in the Toronto region.

The case study research, to be released April 2007, will explore the ways in which advanced manufacturers are leveraging the capabilities of the local design talent pool to be more competitive. Research results will assist in promoting the Toronto region as a design-rich location for advanced manufacturing.

For further information please contact: Arlene Gould, Strategic Director, DIAC,
www.diac.on.ca

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7. Telus - lead tenant in proposed 30-storey office tower

Menkes Development Corporation is planning to construct a 30-storey, \$250 million, 780,000 square foot premium office tower on the northeast corner of York Street and Bremner Boulevard adjacent to the Air Canada Centre in downtown Toronto.

The building will feature direct access to Union Station. The design includes a two-storey podium, conference and wellness facilities as well as 30,000 sq. ft. of retail space on the ground floor. The project will set a standard for environmentally sustainable development by pursuing silver status under the LEED program. Telecommunications company Telus has signed a deal with Menkes to be the lead tenant occupying 440,000 sq. ft. of space and consolidating approximately 2,000 employees at the new location.

For further information, contact George Spezza

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8. FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007 teams set

Coaches, players, and journalists from around the world converged on Toronto in March to draw the match-ups for this summer's FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007.

The opening match - Canada vs. Chile - will be played at the new BMO Field at Exhibition Place on July 1. The bronze and gold medal playoffs and some semi-final games will also take place at BMO Field. Of the 24 qualified nations Portugal, New Zealand, Gambia and Mexico will play in Toronto.

The competition will be staged between June 30 and July 22 in six Canadian venues: Toronto, Burnaby, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa and Victoria. The tournament is expected to draw over 500 million television viewers worldwide and bring \$166 million into Canada.

For more information click [here](#).

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9. Exhibition Place - testing ground for green technologies

As the latest in a series of projects undertaken by Exhibition Place to achieve energy self-sufficiency by 2010, a trigeneration system has been introduced to reduce fuel consumption by approximately 25%.

Trigeneration systems, currently at efficiency rates exceeding 90%, provide the simultaneous generation of cooling, heating and power from a single fuel. In addition, any excess power created by the system can be sent back to the grid.

It is estimated that this system will produce an estimated 12.0 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year; displace 7,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions; and supply approximately 30% of the energy needs of Exhibition Place.

For more information about environmental activities and projects at Exhibition Place visit www.explace.ca

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10. Conference Centre proposed at Exhibition Place

City Council has approved \$29 million in capital funding, including a \$21.2 million loan, to construct and furnish a new Conference Centre at Exhibition Place. Once completed the Conference Centre will provide space for trade shows, seminars and break-out sessions and will enable Exhibition Place to better compete for major North American events.

Under the proposed plan, the Automotive Building will be renovated to accommodate the new conference facility. City heritage preservation staff will work with Exhibition Place staff to ensure the heritage character of the building, which is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, is preserved.

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11. *The Incredible Hulk* will film in Toronto

Toronto has been selected as the principal filming location for the upcoming Marvel Studios production of *The Incredible Hulk*.

The film's executive producer Jim Van Wyck was in Toronto two years ago on the

Richard Donner action film *16 Blocks*. "After our wonderful filmmaking experience on *16 Blocks*, I am excited to return to Toronto with this project. The film community in Toronto is exceptional, and the cooperation from the city, the province, and the Mayor's office was wonderful," Mr. Van Wyck said.

"I am tremendously pleased that Marvel Studios has chosen Toronto as its location for *The Hulk*. This timely decision reinforces Toronto's status as the national centre of excellence and will serve as a strong kick-off to our 2007 production year," said Mayor David Miller.

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12. 20th Century Fox chooses Toronto filming location

Filmed entirely in Toronto, 20th Century Fox's *Firehouse Dog* is playing on more than 3,000 screens across North America. Toronto was selected as the filming location as a result of the city's production assets including an extensive pool of actors, suppliers and experienced crews, as well as strong municipal and provincial government commitment to the film and television industry.

"I'm delighted to be coming home to my Toronto production family," said Todd Holland the film's director and executive producer. "I have the greatest respect for the entire Toronto production community."

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13. Director Adam Shankman returned to Toronto for filming of *Hairspray*

Director Adam Shankman is no stranger to Toronto. Two of his previous movies *The Pacifier* and *Cheaper by the Dozen 2* were filmed in the GTA. His latest production *Hairspray*, to be released by New Line Cinema on July 20th, was filmed in Toronto and Hamilton.

Arguably the most anticipated aspect of the new film is the transformation of *Saturday Night Fever* heartthrob John Travolta from leading man to an amply endowed woman. The feature film also stars Michelle Pfeifer and Queen Latifah.

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14. Student projects focus on City priority neighbourhoods

George Brown College SCHOOLOFDESIGN Team Studio students and the City of Toronto are working collaboratively on real life projects.

Under the guidance of Professors Jennifer Stellings and Lorraine Wright students created socially relevant design solutions for clients within Toronto's priority neighbourhoods.

Students working with five youths from Regent Park, created posters for youth mentors as part of Toronto's "Safe City" campaign. The focus for posters ranged from teen pregnancy, and drugs, to education, and positive thinking targeted at grade 7 & 8 classes.

Manjit Jheeta, Community Safety City Secretariat Community and Neighbourhood Services, and Judy Brooks, Community Development Officer, with the City of Toronto met with the students, to discuss Toronto's 'Safe City' campaign directed towards youth in the city's 13 priority communities similar to Regent Park.

The final 24 poster designs were presented at City Hall and were later displayed during

the City's "Safe City" conference - a fitting culmination to many weeks of hard work.

Students will design information and complimentary components furthering their messaging in the second phase of the campaign.


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15. 2006 Toronto CMA industry and occupation profiles available

Toronto's Economic Development Office has produced industry and occupation profiles for the Toronto CMA which are now available on the City's website in Excel spreadsheet form.

The industry profiles encompass 210 industries (including sub-totals) in the Toronto CMA. Click [here](#) for more information and to download the information:
www.toronto.ca/invest-in-toronto/labour_force_industry_profiles

The occupation profiles encompass 58 occupations in the Toronto CMA. Click [here](#) for more information and to download the information:
www.toronto.ca/invest-in-toronto/labour_force_occupation_profiles

The profiles provide a 5-7 page picture of the employed labour force in each industry and occupation in the Toronto CMA, and contain information about age, gender, educational attainment, employment income, unionization status, size of employment establishment and length of job tenure of the employed labour force.


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16. Have Toronto Economic Indicators delivered to your inbox each month

Toronto Economic Indicators is a monthly publication produced by the Economic Development Office. It provides a monthly snapshot of the regional economy, and includes data on employment, unemployment, real estate activity, transit ridership, social indicators, financial indicators and innovation. Tables (with monthly historical data, going back several years) are also available as Excel spreadsheets.

Previous issues may be downloaded at:
www.toronto.ca/business_publications/indicators

If you wish to be added to a monthly email distribution list, please contact Andrew McConnachie at 416-392-3382.


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17. Doors Open Toronto focuses on sustainability

Now in its eighth year, the annual Doors Open Toronto, in collaboration with the Clean Air Partnership, has adopted a green theme to highlight sustainable buildings. This joint effort will result in a special focus on up to 25 green buildings in the City of Toronto.

Companies large and small understand the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable buildings. The range of environmental solutions spans solar panels and green roofs to "white" roofs that capture rain water used to flush toilets.

Doors Open Toronto is free and takes place on May 26 and 27, 2007. For more information and a full list of the 150 participating buildings, visit www.toronto.ca/doorsopen


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18. Calendar

April 17, 2007: **Ultimate Platinum: an extraordinary fashion fundraiser**

The Toronto Fashion Incubator (TFI) is celebrating its 20th anniversary on April 17, 2007 at The Carlu in Toronto. Schmooze with the stars at Ultimate Platinum TFIXX07. The evening will feature an hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting reception, a silent auction of fantastic designer wares and two fashion shows, the ELLE Canada TFI New Labels runway show and the Ultimate Platinum runway show, featuring 20 one-of-a-kind gowns by TFI members and alumni.

The Toronto Fashion Incubator (TFI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to nurturing, supporting and promoting new fashion entrepreneurs. TFI strives to help new designers, entrepreneurs and students develop their talent and acquire useful business skills to help them thrive in the fashion industry.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the TFI Shop. For more information about TFI, visit www.fashionincubator.com

April 23, 2007: **Explore Canada/ Hong Kong business opportunities**

The Hong Kong Canada Business Association (HKCBA) will host its annual *Canada-Hong Kong Business Forum* at the Toronto Convention Centre on Monday, April 23, 2007.

The event will focus on Hong Kong as a gateway to accessing business and investment opportunities in mainland China. Sessions will provide insight and advice on business opportunities in China.

For more information about the event and to view the program, [click here](#).

May 1, 2007: **Green Toronto Awards**

The Toronto Green Awards recognize businesses, groups and individuals who have contributed to making Toronto healthy and green. The winners will be announced at a reception at City Hall on May 1st.

For more information visit www.toronto.ca/greentorontoawards

May 23, 2007: **10th Annual ICE Network Meeting**

The Intergovernmental Committee on Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (ICE) is holding its 10th Annual Network Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Hart House Debates Room at the University of Toronto.

Keynote speaker Greg Clark, City and Regional Development Advisor at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in the United Kingdom, Global Practice Advisor at the London Development Agency, and Chairman of the OECD Forum of Cities and Regions, will be speaking about "Economic Development in World Cities." Other presenters will provide a local retrospective.

For more information, please contact 416-348-9935 or eslack@esci.ca.

May 28, 2007: **Canadian New Media Awards (CNMA)**

The Canadian New Media Awards (CNMA) established in 1999, promote and celebrate

excellence within the digital interactive industry. Judges from across the country select 45 finalists and 15 winners on-line from hundreds of entries in categories that showcase the world-class skills of the new media industry.

For more information, visit www.cnma.ca.

May 28 - June 1, 2007: Toronto Technology Week

Toronto Technology Week, co-ordinated by ICT Toronto, will pack more than a dozen events into five days at a variety of locations in Toronto, including MaRS, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) and the Direct Energy Centre.

Highlights include: Canada's first-ever Canadian Municipal Wireless Applications Conference, Innovation Trade Show and Entrepreneur Competition.

Go to: www.techweek.to for further details.

June 13 - 16, 2007: TERMIS NA 2007

TERMIS NA 2007 Conference and Exhibition is the pre-eminent international event for the tissue engineering and regenerative medicine field. Meet the researchers, entrepreneurs and cutting-edge innovators who are setting tomorrow's tissue engineering innovations today. For more information visit: www.regenerate-online.com

June 19 - 20, 2007: EECO Environment and Energy Conference 2007

The EECO Environment and Energy Conference 2007 is the industry forum for clean energy, climate change and clean air. The conference will offer insight into the most pressing challenges affecting the future of the Great Lakes Region.

Connect with 700 industry leaders in Toronto at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre this June 19 - 20. For more information contact EECO 2007.

July 16 - 19, 2007: Women in Film and Television - Toronto (WIFT) International Summit

The WIFT International Summit to be held at the Park Hyatt Toronto will bring together participants from Afghanistan to New Zealand. Delegates can participate in panel discussions, workshops, screenings and more.

The Summit will encourage international business opportunities that assist production companies and film makers in creating strong products.

For more information click [here](#).

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19. Contact Us

We are interested in your feedback. Contact us at cknipfel@toronto.ca with ideas for future newsletter topics, questions about issues raised, or to add names to our distribution list.

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20. Here to Help

If you are looking to expand or relocate, if you need assistance with city, provincial or federal agencies, contact investing@toronto.ca. We are able to put you in touch with

key contacts to expedite your business plans.

Check out Toronto's comprehensive business services at www.toronto.ca/business.

To access past issues of TO business, [click here](#).

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